

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-9 and 13-21 stand rejected. Claims 10-12 and 22-24 stand objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's early notification of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 6, 10, 13, 18, and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 2-4, 7-9, 11, 12, 14-16, 19-21, 23, and 24 have been amended. Claims 25 and 26 have been added.

The amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-9 and 13-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,394,616 to Foote. The rejection is traversed.

Claims 1, 6, 13, and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice in this paper. Thus, the rejection is moot as to claims 1, 6, 13, and 18. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6, 13, and 18.

By amendment, claims 2-5, 7-9, 14-17, and 19-21 depend from allowable new claims 25 or 26. Thus, claims 2-5, 7-9, 14-17, and 19-21 are allowable. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection, and the allowance of claims 2-5, 7-9, 14-17, and 19-21.

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Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 10-12 and 22-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Pursuant to the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter, i.e. "the particular structural limitations directed to the drive screw and slip clutch, specifically concerning the arcuate finger(s) which engage the cylindrical surface(s)," claim 25 has been added essentially comprising claim 10 with the limitations of base claim 1 and intervening claim 6, and claim 26 has been added essentially comprising claim 22 with the limitations of base claim 13 and intervening claim 18.

By amendment, claims 2-5 and 7-9 depend from claim 25, and claims 14-17 and 19-21 depend from claim 26. Applicants request the allowance of claims 2-5, 7-9, 14-17, 19-21, 25, and 26.

For the reasons discussed above, all claims remaining in the application are allowable over the prior art. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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